vised Government to purchase various sophisticated US arms and know-how;

(b) if so, what terms of reference and/or briefs had been given by Government for the visit of this team; and

(c) what are the details of such arms, aircraft equipment and know-how and the estimated cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) A team of Indian Scientists led by Scientific Adviser to Raksha Mantri visited USA for 2 weeks during August 1985 to discuss the feasibility of co-operation with USA on technologies of relevance to our country, including those required for Defence Research and Development. No proposals for the purchase of the sophisticated US Arms were considered.

(b) The objective of the visit is as stated in part (a) above.

(c) In view of part (a) above, question does not arise.

**Firing between Indian and Pakistani troops near Haji Pir Pass area**

1179. SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that heavy firing between the Indian and Pakistani troops took place near Haji Pir Pass area sometime in the first week of September, 1985 and the incidents of firing between the troops of the two countries have increased all along the line of actual control in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof what measures have been taken by Government to strengthen the Indian position to meet any eventuality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) and (b) There was no firing incident between Indian and Pakistani troops in the first week of September 1985 in the Haji Pir Pass area. There has been some increase in the incidents of firing along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. It would not be desirable to disclose details.

Government keep a close watch on all developments having a bearing on our security with a view to taking appropriate measures to ensure full defence preparedness.

**Encounters between Pakistani and Indian Forces in Siachen**

1180. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI KALPNATH RAI:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that besides killing three Indian jawans in Kargil sector, the Pakistani forces are resorting to continuous unprovoked firing on Indian troops in Siachen;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in September, 1985 a number of ground and air encounters between Pakistani and Indian forces took place in that area resulting in a number of casualties on both sides;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) whether any protest was lodged with the Pakistan Government in this regard, if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) what steps have been taken so far by Government to settle the dis-